

C H R I S T M A S 2 0 1 6

the

Witness

The Church of The Ascension, Rockville Centre, New York



Christmas Flowers

Flower memorial gifts for Christmas are being accepted now through December 18th. Please make sure your donation is clearly marked "Christmas Flowers" and please be sure to clearly list the names of the individuals you would like remembered. *Envelopes are available in the back of the church.*

Dear Ascension Family,

This past Sunday, Stu Whalen performed his marvelous adaptation of 'A Christmas Carol' to a packed parish hall. It was exciting to see so many unfamiliar faces at this wonderful event. Some guests, I am sure, were familiar with Stu and his talent and wanted to experience the magic of 'A Christmas Carol' again, but I am willing to bet that many of our guests came simply because they were invited by you. Thank you. Thank you for sharing this event on Facebook. Thank you for handing flyers to your friends. Thank you for bringing other members of your family. That is how the gospel is spread and the church grows: through the connections we make one person at a time. So keep up the good work; keep sharing those events on Facebook and inviting your friends, because very often our visitors find themselves at home.
-Fr. Kevin



Save the Date!

Pageant

Sun. Dec. 18th

The annual Children's Christmas Pageant at 10:30am

Christmas Eve

December 24th

Family Service 5pm
Midnight Mass 10:30p.m.

Rectory Party

January 8th

The annual Rectory 12th Night Party at 6pm.

Worship

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve	Saturday, Dec. 24th
<i>Family Service</i>	<i>5pm</i>
<i>Midnight Mass</i>	<i>10:30pm</i>
Christmas Day	Sunday, Dec. 25th
<i>Sung Mass</i>	<i>9:30am</i>
Holy Name	Sunday, Jan. 1st
<i>Low Mass</i>	<i>8am</i>
<i>Sung Mass</i>	<i>10:30am</i>
Eve of Epiphany	Thursday, Jan. 5th
<i>Choral Mass</i>	<i>7:30pm</i>



Taizé Compline

Our Youth Group will be presenting a special service of candlelight and prayer on **Sunday, January 22nd at 5pm.**

Join us for quiet reflection and chanting, and stay afterwards for a reception featuring the many types of Tapas that the kids enjoyed in Spain.



Candlemas Choral Compline

Thursday, February 2nd 7:30pm

In celebration of the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple, the choir will offer a special choral compline service.

Fellowship and Education

Rectory Twelfth Night Party

Sunday, January 8th 6:00pm

We celebrate the end of Christmastide with the annual reception at the rectory. Guests are encouraged to bring gift cards to local grocery stores.

And remember to beware of the baby!

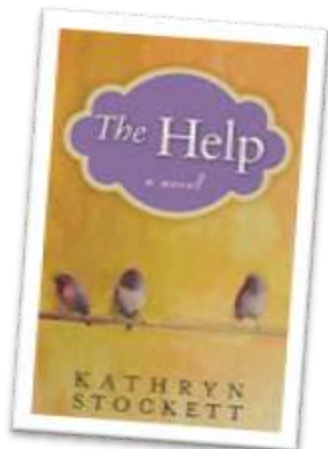
Newcomer's Dinner

Are you fairly new to Ascension? Join us for dinner in the parish hall on **Saturday, January 28th at 6:30pm**. Learn a bit more about our parish, meet other parishioners, and most importantly, help us to get to know you a bit better. Please RSVP at parishadmin@ascensionrvc.org or by calling 516-766-0693.



Pilgrim Course

The Pilgrim Course returns on **Thursday, January 12th at 6pm**. The Pilgrim Course is a small group adult forum that uses scripture passages to discuss issues of faith. The next 6 sessions will be focused on The Holy Eucharist. Join us!



'The Help' Book Discussion

As a part of the anti-racism dialogue being held in the Diocese of Long Island, our parish will be reading and discussing the book 'The Help' by Kathryn Stockett. We will meet on **January 22nd at 9am** to begin discussion of this book and then we will join the parish of St. Alban the Martyr on **January 27th at 7pm**. at St. Alban's in Queens to discuss the book with them. Finally, we will join together back here at Ascension on **February 24th at 7pm** to watch the film and have dinner and discussion together.

What is Taizé?

Taizé (pronounced “tay-zay”) is a religious community located in Southern France that was founded in 1940. Taizé is unique among religious communities in that it is an ecumenical community, meaning that it is made up of individuals from different religious denominations (Roman Catholic, Anglican, Reformed, etc.). The community has also become widely known for its distinctive music, which is a form of chant, and for its appeal to young people. Each year over 100,000 young people make a pilgrimage to Taizé to pray and worship.



What is a Taizé service like?

A prayer service in the Taizé style is meant to be very reflective and contemplative. The room is usually fairly dark with many candles lit and very often there is incense burning. Usually there is plenty of time for silence and quiet reflection. Chants are interspersed with prayers and readings. The chants are meant to be sung by the entire congregation and are usually one or two verses that are repeated to the same tune over and over again. It is not necessary to read music or know the tune; one only needs to listen and repeat. Soloists occasionally sing a verse here or there, but the congregation simply repeats the chorus in the background, creating a rhythm that has the entire room participating in worship at the same time. It may sound complicated, but it is as simple as singing “happy birthday.”

Why Taizé?

When our youth group arrived in Santiago de Compostela this summer we stopped in a chapel where a Taizé service was happening. Since Taizé is famously popular with young people, and often led by them, we thought our youth group might try to offer this at Ascension. They will set up for the service, light the candles and the incense, read the readings, lead the prayers and help in supporting the singing. After the service they will host a reception featuring the many types of foods they enjoyed (or perhaps didn't enjoy!) along the way in Spain.

Please join us on Sunday, January 22nd at 5pm. and lend your voice to singing and your heart to worship!

Check out our new website!



This Fall Ascension completely updated its website. Take a look to see all of its wonderful new features:

Here are just a few items that you can now find on our site:

- Confirmation, Wedding and Funeral Policies
- Links to our Youtube page
- Pictures of past events
- Weekly announcements
- An up-to-date calendar of daily events
- Frequently Asked Questions about our church
- Links to Amazon and Realm
- Usher, Altar Guild, LEM and Acolyte Schedules

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING:

The annual meeting of the Parish of the Church of the Ascension will take place on Sunday, February 5th at 11am. There will be only ONE MASS that morning at 9:30am. This year we will be electing 1 warden and 3 vestrypersons. To be eligible to vote at this meeting you must be a communicant in good standing, meaning that you have received communion in this parish no less than 3 times over the past year, and be on record as a contributor to the support of this parish. Lunch will be served during the meeting.

A note about year-end giving:

Giving statements are being prepared for those who wish to know the status of their pledge and/or giving before the end of the year. Please remember that any gifts you wish to claim on your 2016 taxes must be received by December 31st. If you have any questions about your giving statement please contact the Treasurer Bill Cooper. As always, gifts can be tracked online at any time through the Realm system.

Don't forget to stop at The Shop!

The Shop at Ascension is open **Wednesdays and Saturdays from 11am to 5pm**. Stop by for all your special holiday gifts!

